



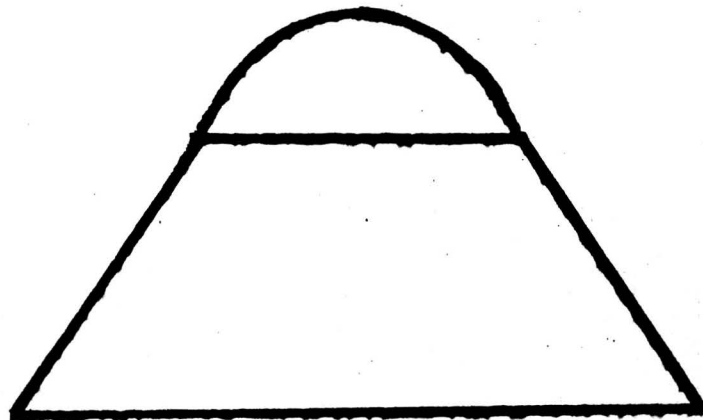
AUGUST—1976

SUMMER NEWS BULLETIN

UFO FACTS & SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCHING OF AN
ANOMALISTIC PHENOMENA

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FACTS = THE TRUTH

OBJECTIVE UFOLOGY: A CAUSE AND CONCERN
By William H. Spaulding

In physical science, the wheel is often cited as the world's greatest invention. Undoubtedly, it is. One cannot image a modern world without wheels. In primitive cultures, the predecessor of the wheel was the skid, two poles with a platform suspended in between and drawn by animal power; an alternative which produced much friction and little progress.

In abstract science, the concept of zero is usually cited as the greatest invention. This is a good choice. Without this concept, mathematics could not have progressed beyond simple arithmetic and all of modern technology could never have been developed.

In scientific ufology, specifically the physical variety, the outstanding invention is objective researching. Again this choice is clear. The world would never have progressed beyond primitive stages of economic and technological development if it were not for the development of a set of scientific rules for research, through objectivity. This kind of objectivity facilitated the major gains made in ufology since its conception - in mid 1947.

It is unthinkable that any society would voluntarily relinquish the benefits of the wheel. It is equally unthinkable that the knowledgeable members of society would voluntarily relinquish the use of the concept of zero-or of the established role of the scientist-objectiveness (although the self-defeating and subjective members of the UFO society might perhaps have no opinion one way or the other). Certainly any abandonment of the wheel, the concept of zero, or the objectivity rules for the scientist, one would be guilty of the most devilish sort of mischief or equally insane.

-END-

AUGUST SUMMER NEWS BULLETIN
RESULTS OF COMPUTER PHOTO ANALYSIS
By William Spaulding

Since last August, GSW has been actively evaluating hundreds of UFO photographs to determine the exact origin of the image on the film. In each case computer image enhancement testing was performed on the photograph that 'passed' the preliminary analysis. (*1) The total analysis included; edge enhancement, color contouring, digitizing (computerizing), electronic densitometry, and pixel (picture cell) measurements for distance factoring.

The following photographs represent, to date, strong evidence of an extraordinary flying object and are not considered to be a lens anomaly, processing artifact, montage, a small model (supported or thrown in front of the camera) or a misinterpreted conventional object/phenomena. As our software (computer programs) improve we will update and modify our analysis methods and notify you of any change in the original evaluation.

1)	Trent/McMinneville, OR	May 1950	(DD)
2)	Timberlake, Maine	July 7, 1958	(DD)
3)	Trindade, IS (Brazil)	Feb. 21, 1958	(DD)
4)	Bedford, Ohio (GOC)	Aug. 21, 1958	(NL)
5)	Tulsa, OK	Aug. 2, 1965	(NL)
6)	Gibbon, Minn. (St. George)	Oct. 21, 1965	(NL)
7)	Rhodes/Phoenix, AZ	July 10, 1947	(DD)
8)	Mayher/Miami, FL	July 29, 1952	(NL)
9)	Denver, Colorado/Zedaa	Aug. 28, 1969	(DD)
10)	U-Movies Tremonton, Utah	July 2, 1952	(DD)*
11)	M-Movies Great Falls, Montana	May 11, 1950	(DD)*
12)	Astronaut James McDivett		(NL)
13)	Gemini XII Space Photos	Nov. 12, 1966	*
14)	Sky Lab III	Flight Day 263 of 1973	*
15)	Santa Catalina, CA	(from movie film)	(DD)*
16)	Edwards AFB	Sept. 1957	(DD)
17)	Chingola, Zambia (Rhodesia)	Oct. 1961	(DD)

(*) These pictures were analyzed without permission of the photographer - can not be utilized for publication purposes.

(*1) Preliminary Evaluations were conducted by Fred Adrian, GSW Photographic Consultant. This included standard inspections and examinations of all film-negatives prior to the expensive computer analysis.

For years the print media and UFO organizations have published numerous photographs, stating (or implying) that these pictures represent genuine unidentified flying objects. The following list of photographs represent both crude and grandiose hoaxes or photographic anomalies and should not be considered evidence of UFO existence.

1.	Rex Heflin/Santa Ana, CA	1965
2.	Melbourne, Australia	1966
3.	Sedona, AZ/Ghormley	1967
4.	Lubbock (Texas) Lights	1951
5.	Zanesville, Ohio/Ditter	1966
6.	White Sands (NM)/Holloman AFB	1957

7. Odense, Norway	1974
8. Dan Fry/Azusa, CA	1954
9. George Stock/rassaic, NJ	1952
10. Taormina, Sicily	1954
11. Peru	1952
12. Barra da Tyuga, Brazil	1952
13. James Lucci/Beaver, PA	1965
14. Marseilles, France	1967
15. Natal, South Africa	1956
16. Total George Adamski series (35 pictures)-era 1951-52	1951-52
17. Tokyo/Louis Bonaine	1966
18. Italy (3 UFCs)	1960
19. Eiffel Tower/Paulin	1953
20. Washington DC	1959
21. Lee Munsic/ Moon photo	1959
22. Norway/Barrett	1957
23. Richmond, ID	1954
24. NYC - Underhill	1950
25. Maxey/Ft. Worth, TX	1950
26. Styria, Australia/R. Nagora	1971
27. Peru/Enzo Verga	1973
28. Oregon (triple-image photo)	1966
29. Hillside, MI/Van Horn	1965
30. Salem, MA/U.S.C.G.	1952
31. Copenhagen, Denmark	1959
32. California/Michael Savage	1960
33. Ballassar Bottes /Camden, NJ	1957
34. Charles Rogers/Modesto, CA	1953
35. Ira Maxey/Texas	1950
36. Earl Brown	1958
37. Mountain View, MO./Buck Nelson	1954
38. Dexter, MI	1966
39. Adak, Alaska/G. Peck	1950
40. Pontiac, MI/Al Weaver	1947
41. Austria/S.E. Kaiser	1954
42. Paul Villa/Albuquerque, NM	1963
43. Col. Carter/Colorado	1950
44. G. Marquand/Riverside, CA	1952
45. J. Stewart/Athens, Ohio	1965
46. Cedrick Allingham "contactee" object	
47. Gemini XI photos (NASA)	9-12-1966
48. Apollo XI photo (NASA)	6-16-1969
49. Gemini XII photo (NASA)	11-11-1966
50. Gemini XII photos (NASA)	11-13-1966
51. San Jos'e de Valderas, Spain	June 1967
52. Salvador, Brazil/Aguiar	1959
53. Lake Tiarati/perna	1966
54. Rome, Italy/Giuseppe	1974
55. S.S. Ramsey/T. Fogel	1957
56. Mart, Tx	1973

During the past year we have collected numerous photographs from organizations and individuals. Anyone wishing to obtain particular photographs may order them from GSW. Most duplications will be in black and white (5 x 7 size). (*2)

(*2) Color prints will be available at a higher cost.

THE DIRECTORS SPEAK
UFO Symposiums; something gained, something lost.
August Bulletin

During the past sixty plus days we have been fortunate to attend two major symposiums; the "secret" CUFOs meeting and the annual MUFON session. Aside from the fact that GSW's Western Director spoke at both conferences and presented two technical papers (*1) on computer enhancement of UFO pictorial evidence, time was allocated to talk with some of the top individual researchers and the management of the other organizations. The first meeting this year was Dr. Hynek's/CUFOs conference, which was attended by many of the 'big' names in ufology from all over the world. Although billed as a closed/secret meeting for the "selected few" in UFO researching, this was not the intention of Dr. Hynek. All he wanted to accomplish was the uniting of the serious investigator, void of some of the commercializing portrayed earlier at the Ft. Smith meeting. Hynek's intentions were honorable, however, his methodology was slightly discolorful. After all, what criteria does one in Dr. Hynek's position use to select the attendees? Granted there are hundreds of good investigators, but there are also thousands of subjective hobbyists.

General consensus is, if ones name did not appear on this list then he/she was considered inferior. There were many names omitted from the selected list. We personally believe this was an oversight rather than a deliberate injustice. Let's face the truth, people are emotional and many of them wear their hearts on their shoulders.

GSW feels strongly about the oversight of some of its own members and consultants, but remember even though most of you are doing a fine job, your name is obscure, opposite that of the reknown researcher, due to your lack of media lime-light.

The important factor about the CUFOs meeting was not if you where an attendee but rather what actually happened at the conference. No one can honestly argue at this point.

Arriving at eight in the morning, after an all-night flight from Phoenix, we began to listen to a full barrage of speakers ranging from the serious physical-oriented scientist to the black magic parapsychical supporter. Papers were given as fast as possible with very little time allotted for serious discussions. Being narrow minded, we enjoyed the outstanding papers given by Dr. Maccabee and Henry McKay, on physical UFO evidence versus parapsychical, but that is not the point.

We believe the foundations of scientific ufology are shaky. After twenty plus years of researching, what is next? Should we (all researchers) continue to collect more data? File and categorize it? We seriously doubt if that is the solution to the ufologist's problem. Ufology must be united with a common goal and central leadership.

The Center for UFO Studies could have been that central leadership with Dr. Hynek taking command. However, this was not the case. We saw a hundred good investigators/researchers going in a dozen different directions, collecting vast quantities of quality data, but not doing anything with this information.

This bulletin is not the place to discuss the complete scenario on how to make scientific ufology more respectable. All we can say is a golden opportunity was past over by CUFOS, to take control of the scientific movement, by offering precise plans and goals for the future and the rough road ahead of us all.

A full compliment of speakers greeted the body politic and researchers attending the MUFON Symposium in June. Overall we rate this conference good, slightly slanted towards the public, but very informative. This annual conference sponsored by MUFON had some interesting new incidents reported, a few discussions on new technology applicable to UFO researching, an opportunity to discuss some case histories and an air of ill-feeling between the Director of CUFOS and the past editor of Skylook magazine. Although Walt Andrus (MUFON's Director) attempted to 'clear the air' of these ill-feelings, he did not succeed. Many of the investigators present wanted to publicly discuss the written statements in Skylook, face to face, with Dr. Hynek.

Some of the accusations made against Dr. Hynek included; the undeclared "clearing house" for scientific ufology, the lack of communication between researchers and organizations, and the continuing indecisiveness of the Center on numerous UFO cases, ie, the inconclusive endings of incidents reported both directly and indirectly to CUFOS.

We believe these "problems" should be aired with all represented parties and that viable answers and solutions should be found. Harmony between organizations is important, but let's not fool each other. The utopian dream of a total united front in ufology will never happen, at least in our life time.

Presently there exists, too many hypothesis and ideals on what should be studied, how it should be pursued, and what should be done with the collected data. This is fine up to a point. We rationalize the situation as one of confusion, distrust, and redundant effort.

Idealistically we would like to see a thousand researchers, crying and complaining about trite professional jealousy, yet scientifically working towards a united goal, than to observe these same individuals, in a happier emotional state, but wondering off in hundreds of different ways with their investigations.

Is it too late for anything to be accomplished? We do not think it is, however, it is going to take some drastic changes in the philosophy of the major organizations. The talent existing in the UFO movement is strong and with a common, united plan, objective quantifying data can be found to hopefully solve one of the most baffling phenomena existing.

The combination of CUFOS, MUFON, GSW and the individual investigator can indeed bring forth some rational conclusions on the UFO without wasting valuable time on mundane problems and personal bickering. If some positive steps are not taken soon maybe all of us better re-evaluate our goals, for somehow, we think, we have lost our original values.

(FN) (*1) The Trent Photographs - Revisited was presented at the CUFOS Symposium quantifying the validity of this bit of pictorial evidence. Copies of this paper and all the other participants are available from the Center for a price of \$15.00 (complete set)

Center for UFO Studies %Dr. Allen Hynek
924 Chicago Ave.
Evanston, IL 60202

Footnote cont.

The Digital Computer and UFO Pictures was presented at the MUFON Symposium and is available from MUFON. Copies of the paper (with pictures) and of all the other participants costs only \$5.00 and is available in the MUFON Symposium Proceedings.

MUFON, INC.
%Mr. Walt Andrus
103 Oldtown Road
Seguin, TX 78155

We strongly recommend that everyone interested in ufology purchase these papers, it is well worth the money.

FIELD INVESTIGATORS BEWARE

Last month the National Enquirer (tabloid) increased its reward for proof of extra-terrestrial life to one million dollars from the previous high of fifty thousand dollars. Many persons who are interested in UFOs, read with extreme interest the trite verbage presented in the weekly ravings of the National Enquirer.

To further complicate the situation, the nation's leading tabloid is offering a \$10,000 price to the "best" UFO story for each year. The recent payment to Travis Walton should ample proof that every crack-pot in the country will be out attempting to get their share of the free money.

You must be open minded and objective in your investigations. We fully anticipate that there will be a drastic increase in hoaxed abduction cases, faked UFO pictures, and other wild stories. All of this for the money.

We urge all of our field investigators to watch for this possibility, now more than ever. All of us must keep our common goals in mind as we proceed to research the UFO phenomena.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All GSW/JSW membership is urged to participate in two information/research gathering projects this summer. We are currently collecting data on UFO pictures and UFO incidents reported over bodies of water, especially the oceans of the world.

Inquires concerning UFO pictures should be made to the Director of Western Division. Information involving the ocean/UFO reports should be made to Roberta Bull (GSW) - 4531 N. 56th. Ave., Phoenix, Arizona 85301, (602) 846-0320. All data received about UFOs over portions of water will be forwarded to Tom Benson (GSW-New Jersey) for his researching. Additionally all the data will be made available to our membership.

The following, simple foremat, should be utilized when gathering this important data:

UFO PICTURES

(example)

LOCATION/WITNESS	DATE	TYPE OF SIGHTING
Phoenix, AZ/B. Smith	July 1961	DD or NL

UFO INCIDENTS OVER WATER

(example)

DATE/TIME	LOCATION	WITNESS SHIP DATA	TYPE OF SIGHTING	REFERENCE
summer of 1945 (sunset)	N.E. Pacific Ocean	U.S. Navy numerous witnesses	large UFO-object emerged from water. UFO circled ship & disappeared	UFO INVEST. Vol. 4 No. 5 3/68-pg. 4

GSW recommends the following UFO publication to better inform the serious researcher - Contact this office for additional details.

UFOLOGY Magazine
D. W. Hauck
P.O. Box 3073
Munster, IN 46321 (\$3.95 per year)

During the second week of July the Travis Walton hoaxed UFO incident was given to the media and the body politic. Vast electronic and print media exposure told the story as it was depicted in our last bulletin. Numerous radio shows are planned in the near future. Additionally the other UFO organizations are covering the story, some of these include: NICAP, MUFON, Official UFO and UFOLOGY publications.

GSW would be interested in hearing from its membership on the expose' of the Travis Walton incident. All correspondence will be held in strict confidence, if so requested. We have enclosed another supplemental bit of data on the continuing saga of the Travis Walton abduction. This latest information from Phil Klass makes the story as complete as possible to date. A special GSW Fall Issue will report on the purposed Walton/Rogers re-polygraphic test, if it actually ever takes place.

MIKE ROGERS AND HIS TURKEY SPRINGS FOREST SERVICE CONTRACT

On June 26, 1974, Mike Rogers was awarded a thinning contract in the Turkey Springs area for 1,277 acres at a price of \$27.40 per acre, or a total of \$34,989. The job was to be completed in 200 working days. Allowing for the long winter in the mountains and other bad-weather days, Rogers would need to complete the job by Aug. 3, 1975. To do so, he would need to average 6.4 acres per working-day. Rogers began work on Aug. 7, 1974, with a crew of five plus himself, or a total of six.

On Dec. 12, 1974, the Forest Service, at its own initiative, issued Change Order #1, reducing the work area by 72 acres, to 1,205 acres, to protect a wild-life area. The contract price was reduced by \$1,972 (\$27.40 x 72), to \$33,017. But the work-time remained at 200 working-days.

On July 15, 1975, Forest Service contracting officer Maurice Marchbanks wrote Rogers a letter to notify him that he was seriously behind on this contract:

"Wayne Porter, COR (contracting officer's representative) of the above listed contract informs me that 92% of your contract time has expired, yet 32% of the work is uncompleted. It appears that approximately one-half of the fuel-breaks (to prevent spread of forest fires) are yet to be completed. This in reality makes the situation worse than the percentages indicate since piling of fuel breaks is generally slower than the thinning itself. This letter is to remind you that the Government has the right to expect the project to be completed on time. Your failure to do so could result in your right to proceed being terminated. Please advise me by letter within 10 days how you plan to complete all the work within the contract time. If you need any assistance, don't hesitate to call." (Emphasis added.)

Insofar as the Forest Service records show, Rogers did not reply in writing. Apparently during a visit to Springerville, Rogers met with Marchbanks to explain why he was so slow and why he needed an extension, which Marchbanks decided to grant. When I asked Marchbanks on May 17, 1976, why Rogers had been delinquent in meeting the original contract date, the Forest Service contracting officer explained as follows:

"He [Rogers] was always slow...he just never did seem to have a good crew or a full crew. Always some reason he couldn't get out there with a full crew."

As of Aug. 3, 1975, at the end of the 200-working day period, Rogers had completed only 852 acres, or about 70% of the job. On this basis, Rogers had averaged 4-1/4 acres per working day. On Aug. 4, 1975, Marchbanks issued Change Order #2, giving Rogers an 84-day extension to Nov. 10, 1975. (The 84-days were based on a six-day work week.) The Forest Service invoked a liquidated damages penalty of \$1.00 per acre for the remaining 353 acres, reducing the price to \$26.40/acre and the contract price to \$32,664.

It would be a race against time, for the first snows can be expected in November, sometimes even in October. If Rogers could maintain his 4-1/4 acres/day average, he might hope to finish before winter hit. If he did not, he could not expect to complete the job until the following summer. Only then could he expect to collect the "10% retention" of earned funds that the Forest Service withholds until the job is done.

On Oct. 16, 1975, less than three weeks before the "UFO incident" and less than four weeks before the expiration of the 84-day extension, Contracting Officer's Representative Tom Hents made one of his periodic inspections of the Turkey Springs job site and wrote the following status report to Marchbanks:

"Contractor has completed approximately 15 acres of fuel-break in Lot D since last payment was made [Oct. 2]. Contractor has been working steadily. However, progress has been slow due to the density of the stands being thinned. To date, 80% of the time-extension has passed and 31% of the work [to be done during extension] has been completed. Contractor claims he is trying to increase size of his crew, but so far has had very little success."

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT BASED ON THE FIGURES IN THIS PROGRESS REPORT, MADE ONLY A COUPLE WEEKS BEFORE THE "UFO INCIDENT," THAT DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS IN OCTOBER, ROGERS HAD EARNED \$396.00 (15 x \$26.40). BUT AFTER THE 10% RETENTION, HE WOULD BE PAID ONLY \$356.40. ASSUMING ROGERS AND HIS CREW HAD WORKED 12 DAYS DURING THIS PERIOD, ROGERS WOULD RECEIVE ONLY \$29.70 PER DAY FROM THE FOREST SERVICE. AND ASSUMING A CREW OF SIX INCLUDING ROGERS, THIS WORKS OUT TO ONLY \$4.95 PER MAN PER DAY.

Later, Rogers would tell me that he paid his "cutters" \$6.00 per hour and his "pilers" \$3.27/hour. He subsequently qualified this to say that they were paid less than this if they failed to meet their work quotas.

During this first two weeks of October, 1975, if Rogers was paying each crewman \$6.00/\$3.27 PER HOUR when their efforts were bringing in an average of only \$4.95 PER DAY, then he was "losing his shirt" on the job. On the other hand, if Rogers had reduced their pay to reflect their reduced earnings, then he could not afford to pay more than an average of \$4.95 PER DAY for the hard work involved. THIS WAS THE SITUATION THEN LESS THAN THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE "UFO INCIDENT."

On Oct. 20, 1975, apparently sensing that Hents would turn in a less-than-optimistic progress report on the Turkey Springs job, Rogers wrote to Marchbanks as follows:

"I am writing to tell you personally of our progress on Turkey Springs thinning. I can not honestly say whether or not we will finish on time or not. However, we are working every day with as much manpower as I can hire. I will not stop work until the job is finished or until I am asked to stop. I have had considerable trouble keeping a full crew on the job. The area is very thick and the guys have poor morale because of this. I have had to break in several green men. We will keep working and trying hard." (Emphasis added.)

It would sound like Rogers was simply a young businessman who was plagued with bad luck in assembling a competent, experienced crew.

IT WOULD NOT BE UNTIL NEARLY NINE MONTHS LATER, ON JULY 12, 1976, THAT CONTRACTING OFFICER MARCHBANKS WOULD LEARN THE TRUE REASON FOR ROGERS' PERFORMANCE ON THE TURKEY SPRINGS JOB, AS A DIRECT RESULT OF MY INVESTIGATION INTO THE TRAVIS WALTON UFO CASE.

During my initial investigation into the Travis Walton case, I had tried to telephone Rogers but discovered he then had no phone. In early July, upon learning that Rogers now had a telephone, I called him on Sunday night, July 11, 1976. I told him that I was tape-recording our conversation and would send him a copy, which I promptly did. Rogers also recorded our conversation.

During our discussion, I learned the real reason why Rogers had been so late on his Turkey Springs job. After winning that contract, he had taken on two others.

One of these other jobs was a "lopping" subcontract with Western Pine Co. The other was with another Forest Service prime contractor whom Rogers declined to identify. How much of the time did Rogers work on his own Turkey Springs contract? "You might say two weeks on, two weeks off," Rogers told me. When I asked whether Marchbanks knew that Rogers had these two other jobs and was not spending full time on Turkey Springs, Rogers said he assumed that Marchbanks knew because Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) Hents also inspected the Western Pine timber operation. But Rogers indicated that Marchbanks probably did not know about the other subcontract. I told Rogers I intended to call Marchbanks the next morning to find out.

Early the next morning, July 12, Rogers drove to Springerville to "level" with the contracting officer, before I called. Later, I learned that Rogers had played his tape recording of our July 11 telephone conversation for Marchbanks. Later, when I called, Marchbanks told me that he had NOT been aware of Rogers' subcontract with Western Pine but he added: "that may not be as bad as it sounds." Marchbanks explained that another group in the Springerville office followed such timber contracts and he later learned that they had known of Rogers' work for Western Pine. But he told me: "I was not aware of it until this morning."

But at that point, Marchbanks still was not aware of the second Rogers job, even after hearing Rogers tape recording of our conversation in which we had discussed this second subcontract at some length. Marchbanks explained that he might have missed it because there were flaws and interruptions in the Rogers tape recording. Besides, he explained, "the whole thing is really not too interesting to me."

Marchbanks summed up his views in these words: "I feel like if he did [have the other contracts] that he didn't play exactly fair with us. In other words, the contract [with the Forest Service] should have had priority. But that would be his business to a certain extent. He knows what his obligation is to us and he knows what his risk is in reprocurement." [If a contractor is terminated for default, the job is put up again for bid. If the new successful bidder's price per acre is higher than the original contractor, the difference is deducted from the 10% retention funds the Forest Service has withheld from the original contractor.]

Rogers did no further work after the UFO incident on Nov. 5. As of that date, he had completed only 115 acres in the 13-weeks since his contract was extended. Another 238 acres remained to be done. ROGERS CLAIMS HE COULD HAVE FINISHED THESE 238 ACRES WITHIN TWO OR THREE WEEKS, IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THE UFO INCIDENT.

During our 7/11/76 conversation, I challenged this claim. Rogers insisted that he could have completed the remaining 238 acres "in two weeks, or maybe three weeks if things had not gone quite right." The reason, Rogers explained, was "because I had no other contracts at that time, everything else was finished... I had beefed up my crew... I had seven men on the job the day the UFO thing happened and on another day I had eight... That's why I know I would have [finished in two or three weeks]. We were completing, as a matter of fact, after everything else had been put out of the way, we were moving at about 15 acres a day." (Recall the COR report of Oct. 16, 1975, showing that Rogers had completed 15 acres in a two-week period.)

In our 7/11/76 interview, Rogers claimed that his Turkey Springs contract "was the best contract I ever had. It was the largest acre price on any contract I ever ...worked on and I made a better profit on it than any contract I'd ever had to work on." Rogers told me that he paid his "cutters" at the rate of \$6.00 per hour. Marchbanks was asked if he thought Rogers could make a lot of profit at this pay-rate. He replied: "I doubt it...not many contractors on these \$25/acre jobs could make much

money paying that. They'd do good to make money paying \$3.50 per acre." Later he added: "If a guy told me this was the most profitable contract he ever had, my question is why in the hell wouldn't he stay with it and finish it?"

If the Turkey Springs contract was as profitable as Rogers claims, his profits plus the money earned from his two other subcontracts should have given him enough funds to carry him through the long winter when he could not work in the woods. Having worked at this trade for 10 years, Rogers would know that once the snows came, he would not be able to return to the woods until the following April. The first snows usually hit in November, sometimes as early as October, and Turkey Springs gets a heavy snowfall.

Yet within a few weeks after the UFO incident, Rogers was so hard-pressed that he "had to use food stamps to keep going," he told me. Rogers explained the situation in the following words:

"You see the problem of it was that the money I had made on this contract was the 10% retention which I had intended to carry me through the winter. And that's why I was in a financial bind this winter, simply because the money that I would have had didn't come for two months later. [Rogers received his 10% retention -- approximately \$2,638 -- by early February after a new contractor had been selected on his bid of \$24.00/acre.] In other words, if this [UFO] thing hadn't happened out there, in two weeks, or maybe three weeks if things had not gone quite right, we would have had that job finished and I would have gotten over \$3,000 in 10% retention which would easily have held me over the winter until spring. That was my plan."

Judging from Rogers performance during the weeks preceding the UFO incident, his own Oct. 20, 1975 letter which admitted that he was having problems with 'green men' and 'poor morale,' IT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO ME THAT ROGERS COULD HAVE COMPLETED THE 238 REMAINING ACRES IN TWO OR THREE WEEKS. EVEN IF HE DOUBLED OR TRIPLED HIS CREW, AN EARLY SNOW COULD END ALL HOPES OF FINISHING THE JOB AND COLLECTING HIS 10% RETENTION WHICH HE SORELY NEEDED TO GET THROUGH THE WINTER.

Rogers told me: "I would not have had to dream up that [UFO] story or any silly story to get out of a contract because even if I was in trouble on a contract, all I would have had to have done was to have gone to the contracting officer and say 'hey, I'm in trouble on this contract, I've run out of money or something like that, I can't do it, what can we work out.' If nothing at all can be worked out... they would default me."

This is true, but Rogers already had another "default" on his record from an earlier contract. And as Rogers himself admitted to me: "I've been known as being slow. I'll be honest with you, I've been slow on lots of jobs. I've usually used up most of my time on a contract, or a little extra to get one done. I've always maintained a good reputation with the Forest Service, however, because I've always done a very good job."

A second outright default, especially after Rogers had received an 84-day extension certainly would not help Rogers' record nor enhance his chances of getting future Forest Service jobs, especially if the real reason for the Turkey Springs default became known. But if there were "extenuating circumstances," if Rogers seemed to be the victim of an "Act of God" situation beyond his control, this might soften the impact of a second default. Surely it could not hurt.

On Oct. 20, 1975, the same day that Rogers wrote Marchbanks to tell of his problems in getting experienced crew, of crew morale problems and of uncertainties about finishing the job on time, NBC-TV telecast a two-hour special on the Betty/Barney Hill "UFO abduction" incident. By another strange coincidence, a member of the Rogers crew, Travis Walton, not only had a keen and long-standing interest in UFOs, but Walton had actually expressed the hope that he might someday get a ride on a UFO. An even stranger coincidence is that Walton reportedly told his mother that if he were abducted by a UFO she should not worry because he would return safely.

And indeed all of this did come to pass, allegedly, less than three weeks after Rogers wrote to Marchbanks. And Walton returned without a scratch or bruise (except for the puncture-like mark in his right elbow) on Nov. 11, despite his alleged encounter with the UFO which Rogers himself, in a tape recorded interview on Nov. 8, 1975, described in the following words:

"When I seen this flash...I saw him [Travis]...he was in the air when I saw him and he came and hit the ground, and he stiffened like a board...which hurt him I'm sure. It looked like an explosion had gone off in front of him, like the thing [UFO] had caused some kind of explosion...it blew him back 10 feet."

Because of Travis Walton's keen interest in UFOs, it is possible that he was aware of the \$5-10,000 prize paid each year by the "National Enquirer" for the best UFO incident of the year. But this can never be known with certainty.

Marchbanks terminated the Rogers contract for default in November. After the new contractor's bid of \$24.00/acre was received, Rogers was paid his full 10% retention (\$2,638), providing funds to tide him over the winter. It was a long winter and the new Turkey Springs contractor was not able to start work until April 26. He needed nearly six calendar-weeks (29 working days) to complete the 238 acres on June 6, 1976.

On July 18, 1976, Marchbanks told me that his office had just given Rogers a new contract to test out an idea to improve thinning operations. He told me that Rogers had "an idea that he can thin mechanically, cheaper, sweeter, neater and more completer than anybody else can do with a chain saw. We've picked out 33 acres of the biggest, hardest-to-thin [area] in this entire forest, at least that's what our COR was trying to do. And we're going to pay Mike \$75.00 per acre, which is about the standard price for something like this, and I'm anxious to see what he can do on this."

Perhaps Rogers' inventive, innovative mind has come up with an idea that can overcome his past problems in being slow and prevent another Turkey Springs default. Time alone will tell.

It is clear that the most recent contract default at Turkey Springs has not hurt Rogers' job opportunities at the Springerville office of the Forest Service. This is fortunate for, as Rogers told me, he has four mouths to feed.

Philip J. Klass
Washington D.C.
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